

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A snorkel comprising a mouthpiece section lying under water and ~~adapted to be~~ held in a swimmer's mouth, an open end section ~~normally raised out of water~~, through which both an inspired air and an exhaled air freely flow, a tubular section extending upward in a vertical direction from said open end section ~~under into water~~, and a hollow connector section interposed between said mouthpiece section and said tubular section and provided with a check valve allowing ~~[[said]]~~ exhaled air to be exhausted ~~[[into water]]~~, said snorkel being characterized in that:

said connector section is made of thermoplastic material and comprises first and second halves bulging outwardly of said snorkel, said first and second halves are pressed against each other along respective peripheral edges thereof opposed to each other and covered with a belt-like member made of thermoplastic material separately of said first and second halves, wherein said ~~[[belt-like]]~~ belt-shaped member extends along said peripheral edges and welded to said respective peripheral edges from an outside of said connector section.

2. (currently amended) The snorkel according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second halves are respectively bowl-shaped and said connector section consisting of said first and second halves and said ~~[[belt-like]]~~ belt-shaped member is bulb-shaped.

3. (currently amended) The snorkel according to Claim 1, wherein at least a part of said ~~[[belt-like]]~~ belt-shaped member in its longitudinal direction presents a substantially C-shaped cross-section taken in a direction orthogonal to said peripheral edges of said first and second halves and has its inner surface welded to said peripheral edges.

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4. (currently amended) The snorkel according to Claim 1, wherein said [[belt-like]] belt-shaped member has its color or color shade different from that of at least one of said first and second halves.

5. (currently amended) The snorkel according to Claim 1, wherein said check valve is mounted on a side wall of said connector section so as to be openable and closable in a transverse direction orthogonal to said vertical direction of said snorkel.